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THE SITUATION IN CENTRAL AMERICA:
PROCEDURES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A FIRM AND LASTING PEACE AND PROGRESS IN FASHIONING A REGION OF PEACE, FREEDOM, DEMOCRACY AND DEVELOPMENT

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-second year

Identical letters dated 31 January 1997 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the General Assembly and to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to the peace accords signed by the Government of Guatemala and the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca (URNG), which came into force on 29 December 1996. In those accords the parties requested the United Nations to establish a mission to verify all agreements reached between them. In the report promised in paragraph 10 of my report of 26 November 1996 to the General Assembly (A/51/695-S/1996/998) I shall propose that the new mission, which will be called the United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala (MINUGUA), subsume the functions currently performed by the existing United Nations Mission for the Verification of Human Rights and of Compliance with the Commitments of the Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights in Guatemala (also abbreviated as MINUGUA).

The purpose of the present letter is to inform you that, after consulting the two parties, I have decided to appoint Mr. Jean Arnault as my Special Representative and Head of the United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala (MINUGUA). Mr. Arnault was appointed United Nations Observer to the peace negotiations in June 1992 and United Nations Moderator of the negotiations when they were resumed under United Nations auspices in January 1994. His appointment will be with effect from 1 March 1997, on which date Mr. David Stephen, who has led MINUGUA with great distinction since 1 June 1996, will return to New York to assume important functions in my Executive Office.

I should be grateful if you would bring this information to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kofi A. ANNAN

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